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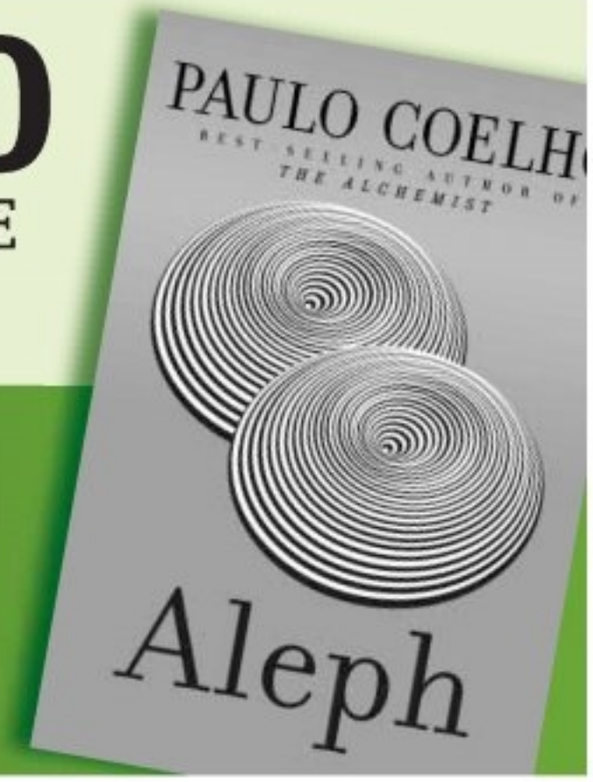
KANYE WEST, FASHION DESIGNER?
STYLE {page 10}

PAULO COELHO

THE MOST TRANSLATED AUTHOR ALIVE TAKES A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY {page 11}



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Don't let this 'veteran' fool you

- Transit Police warn that this man is not really a soldier who lost his wallet on the train
- Many have been scammed by his plausible sob story {page 02}

Sports

Patriots holding the Mayo

- With star LB out, spotlight is on New England's bench
- Guyton expected to take on many of Mayo's tasks {page 14}

Martha, the monster mom?

New tell-all book from Alexis Stewart may not be, as her ma says, "a good thing" {page 08}

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In the news

37%

More than one-third of those recently surveyed hadn't heard of Democratic senatorial candidate Elizabeth Warren. The UMass-Lowell and Boston Herald poll also found 38 percent would vote for Warren, while 41 percent would re-elect Republican Scott Brown. SHNS

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PAULO COELHO: THE FULL INTERVIEW

Postal workers charged

Four men, including two U.S. Postal Service workers in Somerville, were indicted on drug trafficking charges, the U.S. attorney's office said yesterday.

Gerard Harrington, 48, of Stoneham and Sean Williamson, 41, of Peabody allegedly sold cocaine while on duty at the Somerville post office.

Two East Boston men were also charged. METRO

▶ Beaton

Alleged T groper nabbed

Transit Police arrested a man on a Boston bus last week after he allegedly assaulted a 68-year-old rider.

Douglas Beaton, 46, of Roxbury, was charged with indecent assault and battery after he allegedly put his hand up a woman's skirt and rubbed her thigh.

According to reports, the driver of the bus stopped the vehicle and called police after he heard the victim tell Beaton to "not put his hands on her." METRO

T scammers use woeful tales to make some cash

Suspects move between stations using same sad story • T Police say thiefs could be making $200 a day • Man allegedly posing as a soldier

Transit Police are on the lookout for a man who allegedly milks T riders for money by pretending to be a member of the military trying to get a train home.

Amanda, who wouldn't give her last name, said she was fooled by the alleged thief and gave him cash for what she thought was a ticket out of town.

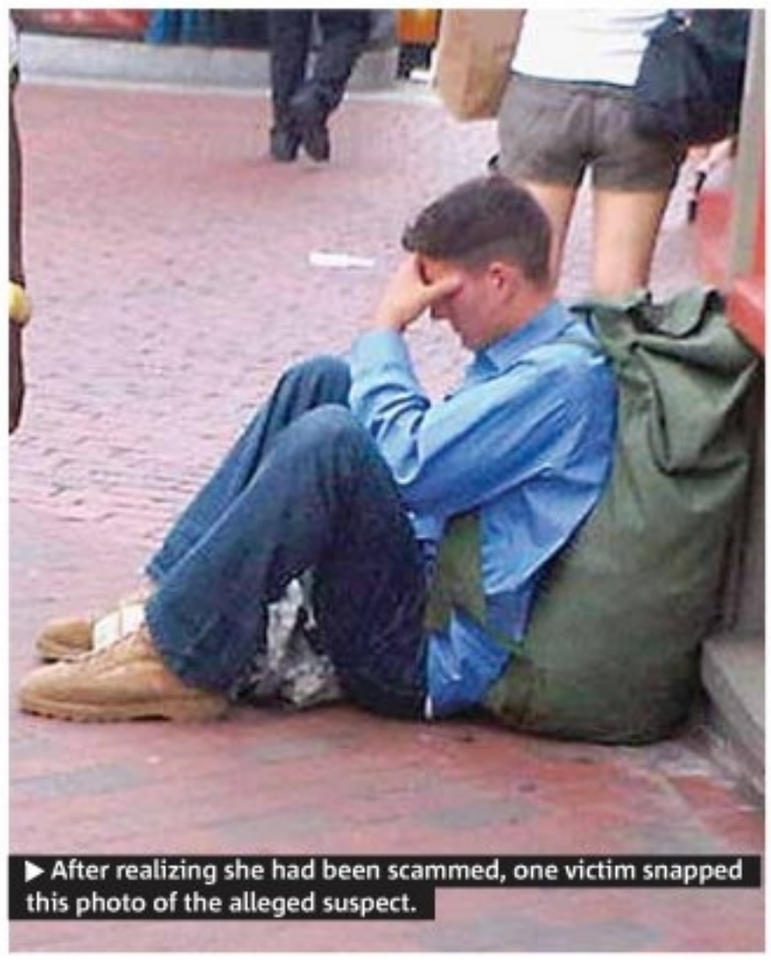
"He deserved an Emmy for his performance," she said of her encounter outside of Porter Square last month.

According to Amanda, the suspect, a man in his mid-20s, wears a shirt and tie and carries a large military bag.

Transit Police Lt. Robert Lenehan said the scam suspect, who is always on the run, camps out at T stops, sometimes in army fatigues, with his head down.

"He is preying on people by dressing up like a veteran," he said. "[He] will work it for a couple of weeks and move on to another location."

Amanda said when people stop to help, the suspect tells them he left his bag containing his laptop, wallet and cell phone on the train.


▶ After realizing she had been scammed, one victim snapped this photo of the alleged suspect.

He then tells them he has no money to get home.

Amanda said she fell for the trap, but saw the suspect one week later pulling the same scam on someone else.

"I went up and I told [this woman] not to believe anything this guy says, and I told him he should be ashamed of himself," said Amanda.

Amanda said the suspect acted as though he had never met her.

According to Lenehan, the man, and others operating similar scams at T stops, usually ask for $25 dollars.

"That's $200 for a couple of hours of 'work,'" he said.

STEVE ANNEAR
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Other scams

- **One girl** "puts on the waterworks" and tells commuters her mother died and she needs to get home, according to Lenehan.
- **People sell** free newspapers to commuters for $1.

Dorchester man indicted for forcing teen into prostitution

A Dorchester man who allegedly kidnapped a 15-year-old and forced her into prostitution has been indicted by a grand jury.

Norman Barnes, 28, was indicted on dozens of charges, including statutory rape and 10 counts of deriving support from a minor in prostitution. He is due in Suffolk Superior Court today.

Barnes was arrested in May in Quincy.

Barnes allegedly also lured a 16-year-old girl into prostitution.

Prosecutors said Barnes used the website Backpage.com to advertise the girls for prostitution using partially nude cell phone photographs of them.

He is currently held on $350,000 cash bail. METRO

JOHN B. ELLEMENT / GLOBE STAFF

▶ Barnes in court in May.

News in brief

Jobless benefit rate on the rise

BOSTON. The maximum weekly benefit for new unemployment claims is rising from $625 to $653.

According to the state office of Labor and Workforce Development, the new rate will take effect for claims filed on or after Oct. 2. State law requires the maximum weekly benefit to be revised annually based on the average weekly wage for the 12 months ending March 2011. SHNS

Large order of nachos, please

BILLERICA. The 99 Restaurant made the Guinness World Records by cooking up the biggest plate of nachos ever created.

According to WCVB, the nachos weighed 3,999 pounds and were placed on a 70-foot, custom-made table shaped like the 99's logo. METRO

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Hub officials have soft spot for protesters

Tent City Square continues to grow ◐ Police, MBTA staff say takeover isn't an issue ◐ Outsiders welcome

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ The Occupy Boston group marched through downtown during the morning rush hour calling for social and economical change in the United States

Boston officials have no problem with the Tent City Square occupiers who have embedded themselves in the center of the Financial District.

On day three of Occupy Boston, Nancy Brennan, the executive director of the Rose Kennedy Greenway, said the organization is not upset that hundreds of makeshift shelters and increased foot traffic have trampled the grass at Dewey Square.

"There is nothing wrong with what they're doing. I feel like it's going to get bigger and bigger."
FINANCIAL DISTRICT WORKER FAHROE SHA, 29

"This is a civic park and it welcomes the expression of First Amendment rights," said Brennan. "Wet weather and tents will do damage to the lawn and that is something [we] anticipated. [We] will take care of it and restore it."

She said organizers have been in constant contact with park staff, and agreed to re-seed the lawn when the occupation ends.

The crowded camping ground, housed next to South Station, hasn't been an issue for the MBTA either, according to officials.

T spokesman Joe Pesaturo said, "It's had no adverse impact on MBTA services."

Camp compromise

State and city agencies are meeting in the middle.

MassDOT officials have agreed to let the group use an outlet on the scene and scheduled city trash pickups, but they won't let them have a generator onsite for safety reasons.

Even police have been helping the "occupods," herding their protests and shutting down street lanes to keep them safe while marching.

We respect their right to protest as long as we are able to maintain a safe environment," said Boston Police spokesperson Elaine Driscoll, adding the occupation has been "largely without incident" since day one last week.

Katie Ward, spokeswoman for the mayor's office, also said the city has had no issues with the protesters and would only step in if overcrowding or illness became an issue.

"As long as protests remain peaceful and safe, we will respect their right to protest," she said. "They have done a great job of keeping it that way so far."

STEVE ANNEAR
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-Narissa, Cambridge

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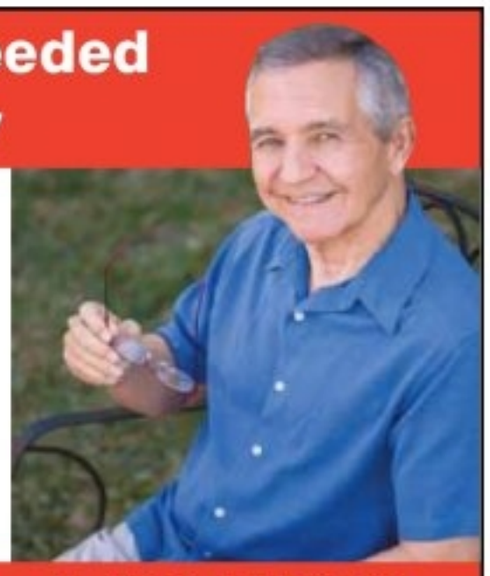

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Terror suspect appears in court

- Ferdaus' lawyer indicates US 'orchestrated' case
- Family, friends shout support at shackled defendant

The Ashland man accused of plotting to blow up the U.S. Capitol and Pentagon pleaded not guilty yesterday and his lawyer claimed the government has made up its case against him.

Rezwan Ferdaus, 26, was held without bail until a detention hearing can be held later this month.

His lawyer, Catherine Byrne, said he is a target of an "orchestrated" case.

"This case was orchestrated and facilitated by the government," she said before guiding a crying relative of Ferdaus' through a crowd of reporters.

Byrne requested that Ferdaus' bail hearing be held in a few weeks so she can prepare. The magistrate judge said it is a complicated case and agreed to postpone the hearing.

▶ Ferdaus

About a dozen family members and friends sat in the courtroom as Ferdaus was led in by guards.

They shouted "Hi Rez," "We love you!" and "Hang in there." He nodded and maintained a serious look on his face.

Also present was the father of Sudbury resident Tarek Mehanna, who was charged three years ago in a separate case with conspiring to provide support to terrorist organizations. He is set to go to trial later this month.

The government accused Ferdaus, a U.S. citizen, of planning to fly large, remote-controlled planes filled with plastic explosives into the government buildings.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Ship. 'Baltimore' in town

▶ Fall is the perfect time to visit Baltimore.

'Baltimore' anchors in Boston

The Pride of Baltimore II anchored in Boston yesterday. The ship is a reproduction of an 1812–era privateer topsail schooner and was launched as a sailing memorial to the original Pride of Baltimore. It will also be in Boston today as part of its five-month voyage to the East Coast, Canada and the Great Lakes to celebrate the bicentennial in Maryland. METRO

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Knox exonerated

Italian court overturns conviction of American girl held for three years over the high-profile murder of British student Meredith Kercher

An Italian court cleared 24-year-old American Amanda Knox and her former boyfriend of murdering British student Meredith Kercher in 2007 and ordered them to be set free yesterday after nearly four years in prison for a crime they always denied committing.

Seattle native Knox and Italian computer student Raffaele Sollecito had appealed against a 2009 verdict that found them guilty of murdering 21-year-old Kercher during what prosecutors said was a drug-fueled sexual assault.

Looking pale and tense as the sentence was read out in a packed Perugia court room, Knox was led away in tears and close to collapse by police officers.

The court quashed the conviction against Knox, who was sentenced to 26 years in jail, and against Sollecito, who was sentenced to 25 years, after independent forensic investigators sharply criticized police scientific evidence, saying it was unreliable.

Kercher's half-naked body, with more than 40 wounds and a deep gash in the throat, was found in 2007 in the apartment she shared with Knox in Perugia. REUTERS

Salacious details

- A powerful lobbying campaign changed perceptions of Knox from the promiscuous "Foxy Knoxy" of early media reports and the cold-blooded, sex-obsessed "she-devil" portrayed by prosecutors.
- **Prosecutors said the victim resisted attempts by Knox to involve her in an orgy.**

TIZIANA FABI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The court upheld a conviction against Knox for slander for falsely accusing barman Patrick Lumumba. It sentenced her to three years in prison, which has already been served.

Alcopop potency settled

WASHINGTON. Supersized Four Loko drinks, beloved by college students as a "blackout in a can," have the same amount of alcohol as four to five beers. Packaging that compares them to one or two beers will be changed under a U.S. government settlement.

The Federal Trade Commission, which investigates complaints about deceptive advertising, said yesterday that Four Loko drinks, made by privately held Phusion Projects LLC, were highly alcoholic.

"Deception about alcohol content is dangerous to consumers," said David Vladeck, director of the agency's Bureau of Consumer Protection. REUTERS

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2

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Alexis Stewart gabs in new book

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Mother, left, and daughter in 2010.

Martha Stewart is getting the "Mommie Dearest" treatment from daughter **Alexis Stewart** in a new memoir, "Whateverland: Learning to Live Here," which will be released later this month. "Martha does everything better! You can't win!" Alexis writes in the book, according to the Daily Mail. "If I didn't do something perfectly, I had to do it again. I grew up with a glue gun pointed at my head." Alexis also makes some startling revelations about the domestic diva's hygiene, revealing in the book that Martha "always peed with the door open." "I remember saying, 'You know, now I have friends over! You can't do that anymore! It's gotta stop! My friends' parents don't do it! Give me a break here! I don't feel like being embarrassed! It's exhausting! I'm a kid! Stop!'"

Oh my, it must have been so hard for you, Alexis. Can you imagine? What it must have been like growing up fabulously wealthy, never wanting for a single thing, but sometimes having to witness your mother (whose fortune you seem to happily feed off of, even at the age of 46) going to the bathroom with the door open?

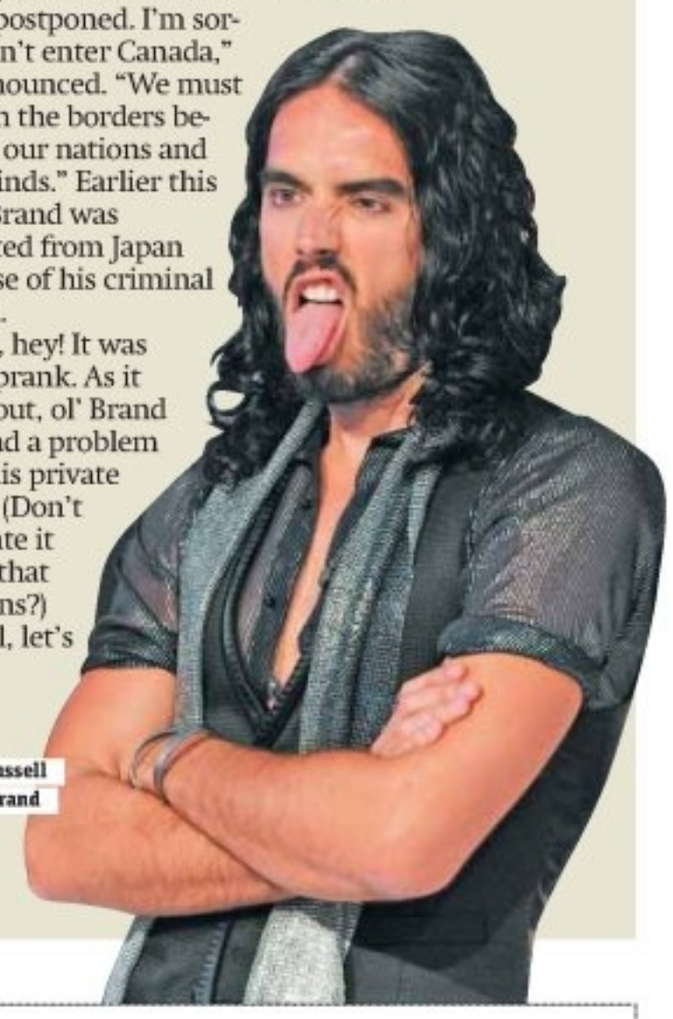
Really, you should get **Jaycee Lee Dugard** on the phone to compare notes on your awful childhoods.

Russell Brand needs to work on his jokes

British comedian **Russell Brand** had to cancel a sold-out show in Canada after customs officials wouldn't allow him entry into the country, he wrote on Twitter. "Tonight's Casino Rama show postponed. I'm sorry. I can't enter Canada," he announced. "We must abolish the borders between our nations and our minds." Earlier this year, Brand was deported from Japan because of his criminal record.

But, hey! It was just a prank. As it turns out, ol' Brand just had a problem with his private plane. (Don't you hate it when that happens?) "Ok all, let's be clear, @rustyrockets is still in Cali, he never left, he has no immigration or border issue, it was a tech issue with plane!" Casino Rama announced on its own Twitter account.

We're sure the thousands of Canadian fans left hanging found his humor (or is it just a straight-out lie?) hilarious.



Russell Brand

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Jessica Simpson is taking requests, Ron Howard is a proud father, Olivia Wilde is experiencing technical difficulties and Albert Brooks is full of opinions.

▶ **@JessicaSimpson**
What kind of music would y'all want from me on my next album? Thinking about going back to the studio

▶ **@RealRonHoward**
Bryce is directing up a storm Even preggers

▶ **@oliviawilde**
Auto-correct strikes again. My phone turns "fed" into "F'ed" which is awkward when telling my roommate I gave the dog his food.

▶ **@AlbertBrooks**
Watching Michael Jackson trial. I say O.J. is guilty.

Olivia Wilde

Talking points

Biel and Timberlake: Still hanging

Exes **Jessica Biel** and **Justin Timberlake** continue to enjoy spending time together, heading to Las Vegas for a charity golf event Timberlake was taking part in, according to People magazine. The pair, who split earlier this year, also made time for dinner with six other friends at Mastro's Ocean Club, where they were spotted "sitting close together" during dinner and leaving together.

Rogan got hitched

Seth Rogan celebrated the release of his new film, "50/50," by marrying his longtime girlfriend, writer **Lauren Miller**, at Kunde Estate in Sonoma, Calif., according to Us Weekly. "The wedding was more laughs than anything else," a source says of the three-day celebration. "Every other line was a joke and the crowd couldn't contain their laughter. It was nonstop fun!" That's not surprising, given that the guest list included **Judd Apatow** and his wife, **Leslie Mann**, as well as **Jonah Hill**, **Paul Rudd** and "The Office" star **Craig Robinson**.

▶ Rogan and Miller

Arquette moves on

A year after his split from estranged wife **Courteney Cox**, **David Arquette** has found someone new. The current "Dancing with the Stars" contestant is dating **Christina McLarty**, who was previously married to "Girls Gone Wild" impresario **Joe Francis**, according to People. "I'm not one to run around with different girls," Arquette told **Howard Stern**. "I like someone that makes me feel good and that I can make feel good."

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DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

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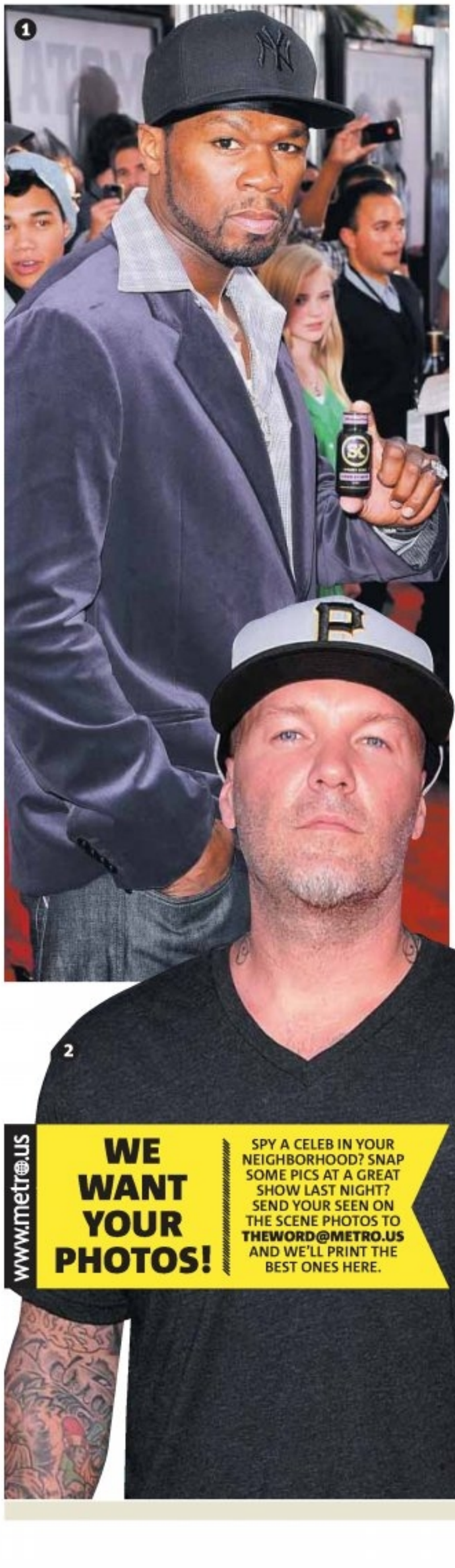
Hey stars, why the long face?



1. Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson attended the "Real Steel" Los Angeles Premiere at Gibson Amphitheatre on Sunday in Universal City, Calif.

2. Fred Durst couldn't force a smile at Tony Hawk's eighth annual Stand Up For Skateparks Benefit, held at Ron Burkle's Green Acres Estate on Sunday in Beverly Hills.

3. Dita Von Teese attended the Alexis Mabille Spring/Summer 2012 show during Paris Fashion Week at Les Serres d'Auteuil on Sunday in Paris.

4. Kanye West at the Celine Ready to Wear Spring/Summer 2012 show during Paris Fashion Week on Sunday in Paris.

5. Rowan Atkinson attended the U.K. premiere of "Johnny English Reborn" at The Empire Leicester Square on Sunday in London.

6. Jared Leto at the Givenchy Aftershow Party at L'Arc on Sunday in Paris.

7. Emma Stone attended "The Help" (that's "Criadas y Senoras" in Spanish) photo call at Hesperia Hotel in Madrid, Spain, yesterday.

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mystyle

Paris Fashion Week: Best and worst of the weekend

Most unrealistic expectations

Kanye West's debut
West's runway debut lived up to the hype. His show was painfully exclusive: Anna Wintour, the Olsens, Alexander Wang — the list goes on. The star's fashion credibility was loud and clear, but the quality of his clothes was inconsistent. The collection felt like summer one moment — sexy white dresses with skin-baring cut-outs — and winter the next — fur-embellished jackets. His slouchy trousers hung on the models in unfortunate ways. Bottom line: Just because you spends time with fashion people doesn't mean you can design.

Least surprising moment

Isabel Marant's sporty separates
Marant, in part, helped spark the season's obsession with all things athletic. (Remember her hugely popular varsity jackets from last year?) This collection featured more of her effortlessly cool French girl fare, complete with cotton jerseys, batik skinny jeans and patchworked tees and dresses. But it would be nice to see her evolve out of this look, which has been a huge retail hit but can sometimes seem repetitive. The show's strongest moments came with the pieces that seemed completely fresh and new for her, like the opening chunky, multi-colored knits and a series of sheer, delicate lace dresses and tops.

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Sexiest collection

Stella McCartney's leg-loving looks
For spring, Stella McCartney continued the seductive streak she started for fall, only she replaced last season's body-con, sheer dresses with crisp, A-line dresses and coat dresses that revealed miles of leg. They were sporty with a flourish; each look came with contrasting colored swirls that surfed their way along the hemline and up the torso. The visual detail was also used to update her trousers suits, which have by now become a staple in every collection.

Most unpredicted upgrade

Lanvin's loungewear
Alber Elbaz is probably the last person one would expect to reinterpret a track suit. But his slinky version for evening, which featured digital graphics of a serpent coiling its way up the legs and torso, was the height of cool. Meanwhile, loyalists will love this season's version of his trademark shift dress, which had bejeweled, three-dimensional snakes winding around the shoulders and neck.

KENYA HUNT
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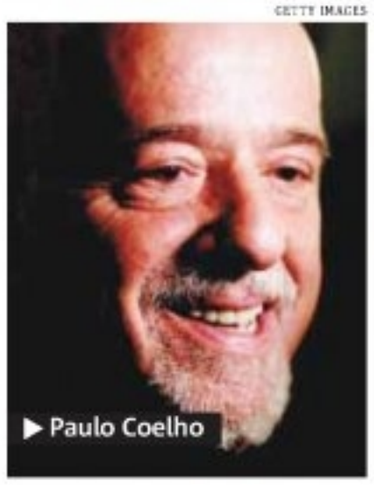

▶ Paulo Coelho

Seeking the 'Aleph'

The latest book from immensely successful author Paulo Coelho finds him on a trans-Siberian journey into his psyche What his wife thought about his bond with another woman His online connection with readers

Paulo Coelho needs no introduction: The Brazilian author has sold more than 100 million books worldwide and holds the world record for most translated books by a living author. His latest novel, "Aleph," is an autobiographical account of his journey along the Trans-Siberian Railway — and across time and space — in search of spiritual fulfillment [the title refers to an enlightening experience he encountered during his trek]. Coelho spoke with us from Geneva, Switzerland.

I read it took you four years to gather the material for this book, but only three weeks to write it. Can you talk about putting it together?
I decided to travel for three months, nonstop, and I had this experience, this "Aleph." I lived through, well, things that are very difficult to explain in a book. One year ago I said to myself, "I'm never going to write about this, it is impossible to explain." My agent said, "You're never going to write about this?" I said it is impossible. When I returned, I don't know what happened, but I sat down and I start writing.

You develop a special relationship with a woman in this book. What was your wife's reaction to that?
We are very honest with each other. She wants the best for me, so why should she be uncomfortable or unhappy if she knows that I put my soul in my book?

You had a whole other life as a lyricist before becoming a novelist. How did you decide to take that leap of faith and change careers?
Well, I always knew that my dream was to be a writer — that's why I was put three times in a mental institution by my parents when I was young. Then I was writing lyrics for songs, and that you can make a lot of money off of. So when I was 30 years old I was successful, but I was not happy. And so I took this pilgrimage from France to Spain on this ancient road called El Camino de Santiago. Then, at the end, I said, "OK, I have one more chance in my life: Either I renounce forever the idea of becoming a writer, or I stop everything that I'm doing now and I write." Thanks to God and with the support of my wife, I quit everything I was doing. I wrote my first book when I was 40 years old.

You've released books online and you're the second-most influential Twitter user, only behind Justin Bieber. Did you know the Internet was going to play a role in your career?
I did not know. Things that I post and tweet or Facebook or [write] in my blog, I cannot write a book about. I adapt to new platforms as a challenge. I may be old in age but not in curiosity, so it's so good to have this challenge.

MEREDITH ENGEL
meredith.engel@metro.us

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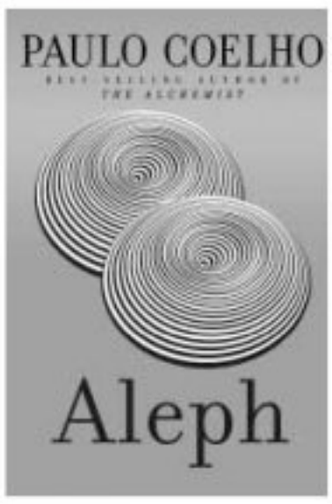
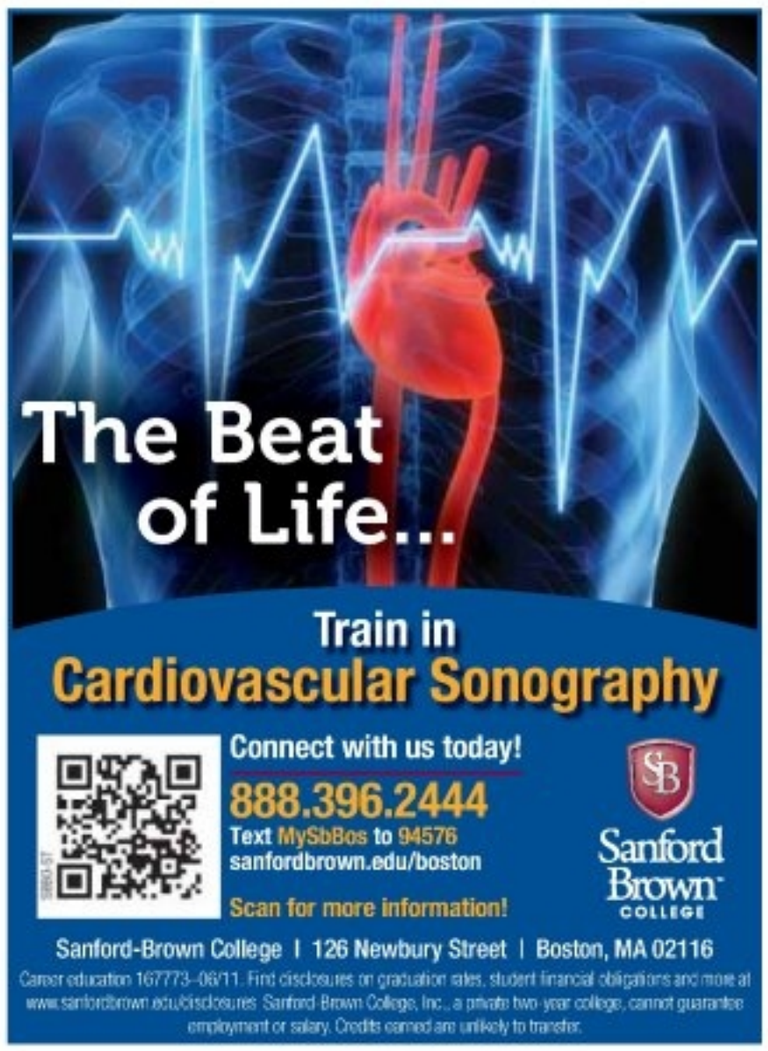
FOR THE FULL INTERVIEW

Q&A



Were you nervous about sharing so many intimate details about your life?

I was not nervous but I was a little bit uncomfortable. I felt, "Oh my God, well, I should cut here, I should cut there." Then I said, "This is so useless. You put your soul into it or you don't. You cannot tell the half-truth. Half-truth is not the whole truth. Just say whatever you have to say, and trust your readers."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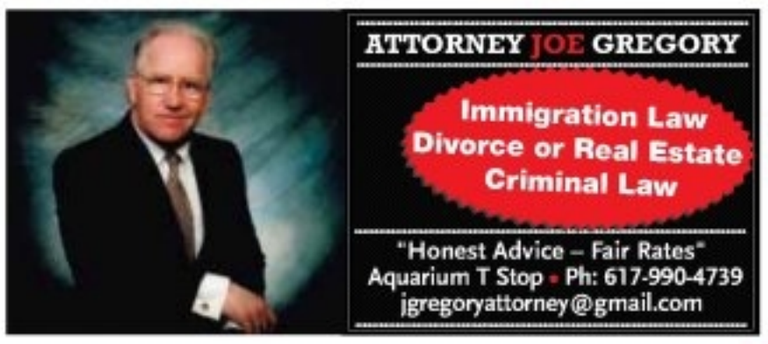


Other reads

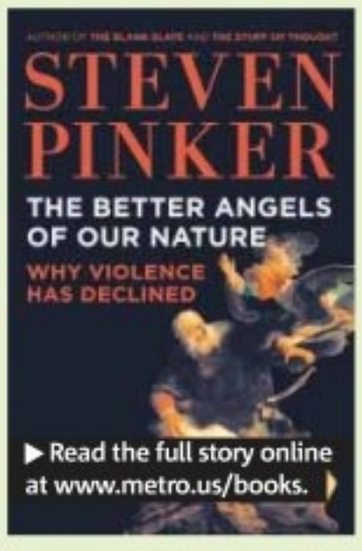
Actually, we've got it pretty good

Despite the fatalistic cries of politicians, preachers and news anchors, we may actually be living in the least violent period of human civilization. Experimental psychologist/author Steven Pinker traces the decline of violence in his new book, "The Better Angels of Our Nature," though he admits that his findings seem a bit counterintuitive.

"There's a quirk of the human mind that we estimate how dangerous something is by how easily we can think of examples," Pinker says. "Well, it's easy to think of examples of things blowing up and massacres and serial killers. It's not so easy to conjure up images of all those people who died peacefully in bed."

Still, more of us are doing just that than our ancestors did. With hard numbers and a quick wit, Pinker recounts just how risky daily life was in the "good old days."

"Most of us are extremely lucky to be living in the current era, where any one of us has a very small chance of dying violently," he says. "That wasn't always true of human history. I don't think we're going to go back to burning heretics at the stake any time soon." SHAUN BRADY



▶ Read the full story online at www.metro.us/books.

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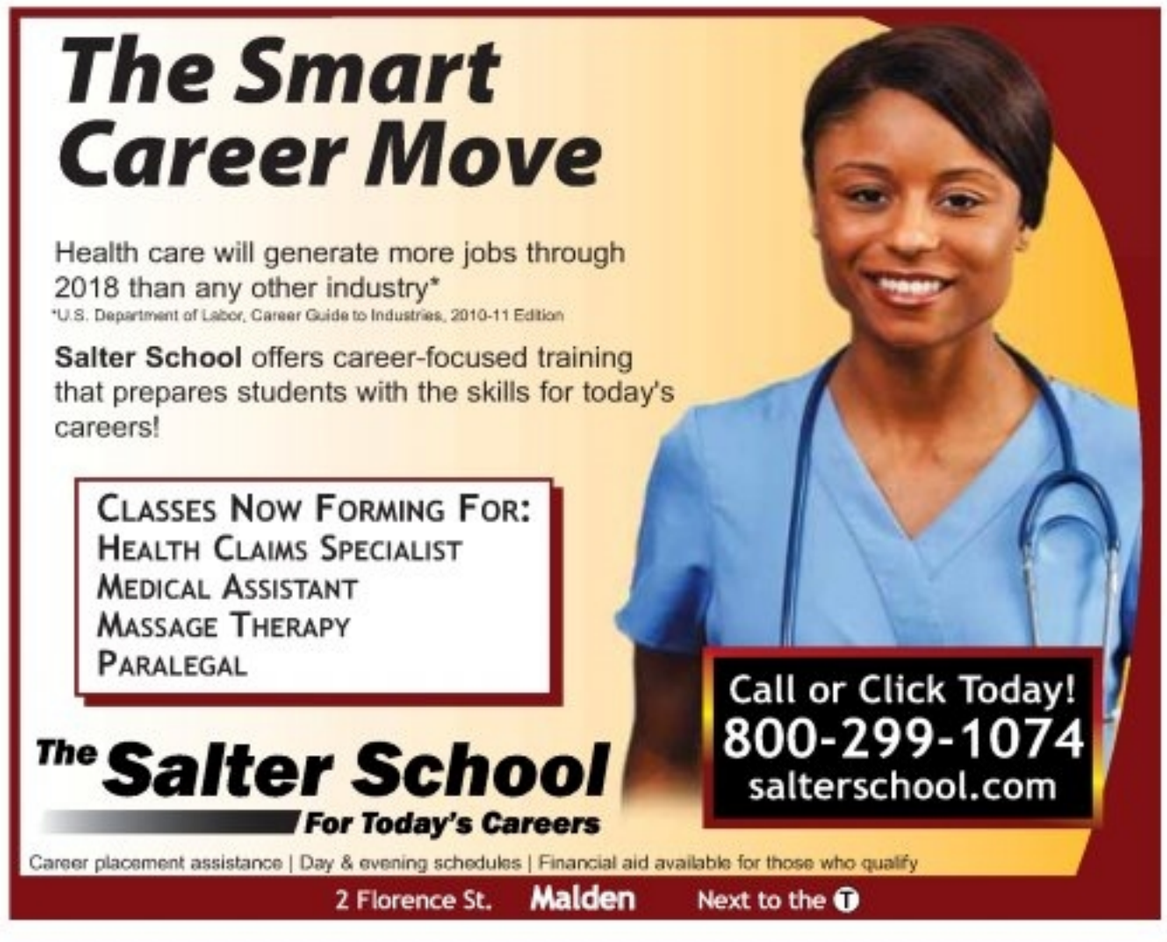
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Letters

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Mixed bag on OWS protesters

RE: "NO SOCIAL NET FOR PROTESTERS": I'm struggling to understand Mr. Minkin's point. Is he arguing that civic engagement and protest should be punished, or is he suggesting that only certain types of people should be allowed to protest? Those are the only interpretations of his letter I can conceive.
JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA E-MAIL

As usual, those who are gainfully employed or in retirement living the illusion of security make such statements like yours. Reality is, you could get all the training or have all the experience in the world, it's the "unemployed" part that puts you in the same trash can as a felon or misdemeanor possession charge. While Wall Street gets their breaks, Main Street gets moldy crumbs.
CHERIE KING, BOSTON

Occupy Wall Street protesters need to be told that in order for the youth of today find work, instead of sitting in a park being unhappy, they need to learn a new language and emigrate to any of the countries where the previously American work went to. Corporate America is never going to bring any work back to the U.S.
JOAN DANIEL, VIA E-MAIL

That young people with a good education and no job cannot find anything better to do with their time but to sit down and Occupy Wall Street is the very proof that education doesn't work. So, the hell with all of this leftist talk. Let the "job creators" create whatever it is that they create and everyone else can just take a short walk off the Brooklyn Bridge.
SUZY SANDOR, VIA E-MAIL

With a name like "Garold," I immediately suspected your parents were closely related; then your words removed all doubt. I hope you get fired and find yourself in the same circumstances that most of America and the Occupy Wall Streeters find themselves in today.
J.D. DUCAS, SOUTHIE

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Real men wary of pink

RE: "NOT YOUR MOM'S BREAST CANCER": Disgusting presentation. The fact is that the great big hoopla about women's susceptibility to breast cancer has resulted in the medical establishment considering it a disease to be born female. Very often cysts would not become cancerous if left alone. The pink campaign may be well-intended, but it's not based on science.
LUCY MARTINEZ, VIA E-MAIL

Horoscope

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** There is a strong possibility that both you and your associates will have low flash points. You can't do anything about any grumbling but your own.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Nothing can be resolved if you don't bring issues out into the open, where friends and family alike can help. The worst time to restrict their input is when you need assistance.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Take the edge off the pressure by paying down at least a small portion of an outstanding financial obligation. Letting it fester will lead to infection.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Use your feistiness and be assertive by pushing for everyone's interests instead of your own. That way others will be in your corner, helping you.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** This might not be one of those lucky days when you'll be able to get others to help you. But others might be fortunate in getting you to help bear their heavy burdens.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Be diplomatic if you encounter someone who used to be a friend but with whom you've had a falling out. If you wish to keep your good standing with the rest of your pals, you need to play it cool.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** It behooves you not to be demanding or abrasive when handling a complicated matter. If you act like a real wisenheimer, you'll be left alone to fend for yourself.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Don't let a heated discussion develop by trying to force your opinions onto someone who has told you that he or she isn't buying what you're selling.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Even when encouraged to do so by someone who has made it big, don't take any unreasonable risks pertaining to your financial affairs. Let others do the gambling.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Hold off until you feel comfortable if you find yourself being squeezed into making an important decision under pressure. Take all the time you need to balance your alternatives.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Use your common sense when it comes to working with unfamiliar tools or materials. Be sensible about taking safety precautions.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If you're one of the more serious Virgos out there, try to take lightly anything that is meant simply as a joke. It's to your advantage to chortle along with the crowd. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

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20 Knot
22 No-charge (hyph.)
24 Double-headed drum
25 Old-time doll
26 Cruising
28 Ship bottoms
32 Thunderous sound
35 Large deer
37 Glitterati (2 wds.)
38 Tasty tuber
39 Reeves of "Speed"
41 Blvd.
42 Oxford's river
45 Loud laugh
46 Interview wear
47 Common Market money
48 Good buy
50 Muddy
54 Very selective eater
58 Produce in abundance (2 wds.)
61 Schedule
62 Faint glow
63 Loan figures
65 Back-fence yowlers
66 Dross
67 Bird abodes
68 Radiate
69 Fable
70 City near Canton
71 Say it's false

Down
1 White-water craft
2 From Bali or Iraq
3 Large blossom
4 Saying
5 Up to it
6 Dernier __
7 Sidewalk con game
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10 Duck's pair (2 wds.)
11 Culture medium
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43 Docking fee
44 NFL broadcaster
46 Rained ice
49 Part of GPA
51 Major artery
52 Subatomic particle
53 Unmitigated
55 Troll's cousin
56 Mgmt.
57 Abominable
58 Do horoscopes
59 Luau number
60 Eurasian mountains
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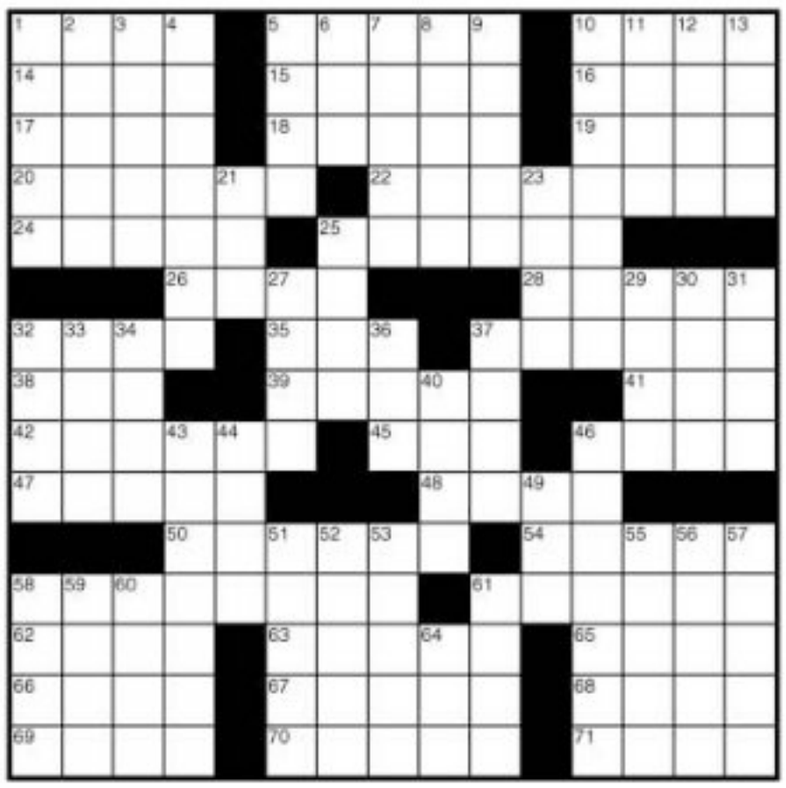
64 Fair-hiring letters



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

A	V	E	R				P	U	B		O	P	A	L
C	A	R	E	T		N	I	N	E		P	E	L	E
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C	Y	C	L	I	C	A	L		D	E	S	O	T	O
				V	I	P		C	O	M		S	A	N
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T	S	A	R		N	Y	C			S	L	O	G	

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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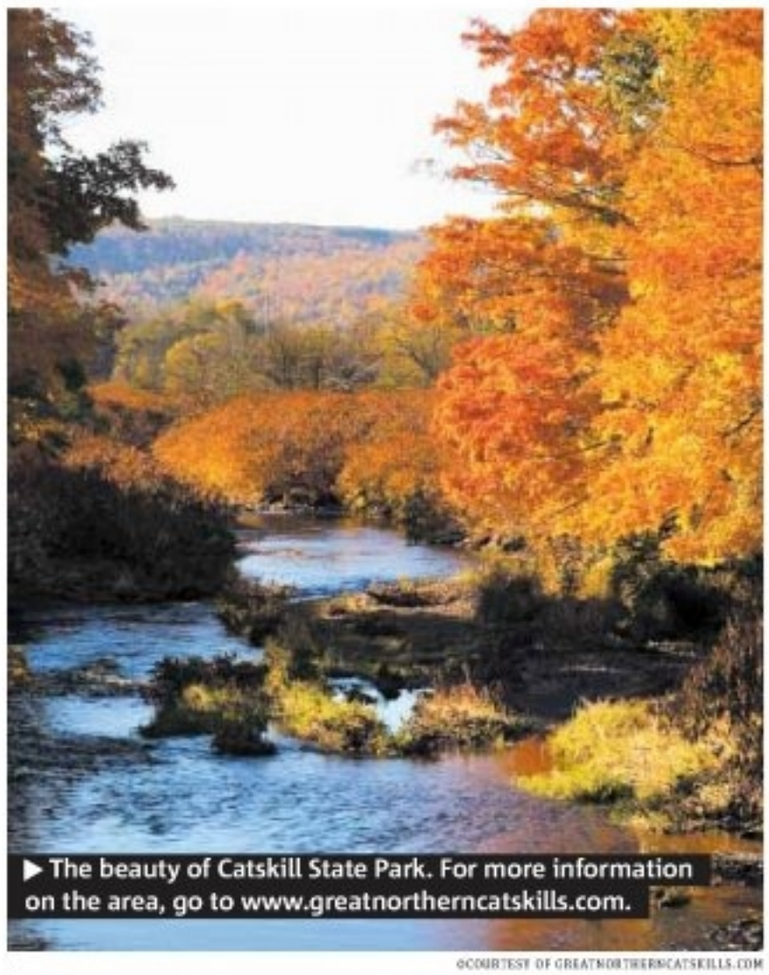
destinations

Catskills: Open for business

Hurricane Irene tried her best to sink the region
But with a little cleanup, the area is ready for visitors



▶ The beauty of Catskill State Park. For more information on the area, go to www.greatnortherncatskills.com.

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New York's Greene County — a popular getaway for many an East Coaster — was hit hard by Hurricane Irene. But now the region is getting the word out that roadways and bridges are open and safe for travel.

"The first two weeks after Irene, there were a lot of phone calls and a lot of questions about cancellation policies," says Chuck Tomajko, proprietor of the Fairlawn Inn, located in Hunter. "But now the area is mostly open for business. It just depends on where you want to go." Tomajko recommends calling ahead to check, but he notes that most area attractions — like hiking, restaurants and antique shopping — are ready for visitors.

Where to ...

Visit: Right now, the region is resplendent in spectacular fall foliage. Greene County is home to five of the ten highest Catskill peaks and Catskill State Park. There are hikes for every activity level, but we especially recommend hiking the Kaaterskill Falls Trail, a popular day hike which takes you past the highest falls in New York. The recently opened Hunter Mountain Zipline tour has been very popular with families and is a great — and adventurous — way to see the beauty of the Northern Catskills.

Stay: There are many quaint inns or bed and breakfasts in the area, many of which don't require a two-night stay, meaning it's great for a super quick getaway. But we especially recommend Fairlawn Inn, with its comfortable, handsome rooms and a delicious, local breakfast in the morning. It was recently given a three-leaf eco-rating in from Audubon International and I Love NY.

▶ Fairlawn Inn

DOROTHY ROBINSON
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Art-inspired

The Thomas Cole National Historic Site Guided Hike
Take a guided hike to see the part of the Catskills that inspired the artists of the Hudson River School on Oct. 15. Go to www.thomascole.org for information.

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Lions showing tremendous progression

National analysis

The Lions have become synonymous with adversity. Since 2001, they've gone an NFL-worst 43-121.

Fast forward to 2011: Detroit is 4-0. Matthew Stafford has picked up most of the attention, improving the Lions from an 82.0 passer rating in 2010 to 111.5 this year. The defense is much better, too.

Even still, Detroit has faced adversity. But now they're responding to it. Sunday's roar from a 27-3 deficit against Dallas was the Lions' second straight 20-point comeback.

Falling behind is never a recipe for success, but Detroit's ability to complete these comebacks is a huge testament to how far they've come.

But can they keep it up? Nine of the Lions' 12 remaining games are against teams that are .500 or better so far.

More adversity? Go figure. ERIK FRENZ

FOOTBALL NATION

REUTERS

▶ Stafford

The pressure's on Guyton, Fletcher

With star LB out up to six weeks, spotlight is on the backups ◆ They know the systems and plays ◆ But can they save a struggling defense?

It wasn't all good news Sunday as the Patriots headed back to Foxborough to prepare for the archrival Jets.

Defensive captain Jerod Mayo left the 31-19 win over the Raiders with a ligament sprain in his left knee. He's expected to miss up to six weeks.

For a struggling defense, losing Mayo obviously hurts — and it doesn't help that the schedule only gets tougher over the coming weeks. But don't assume nobody can pick up Mayo's slack. The Pats say they're prepared for anything.

"Gary [Guyton] basically replaced Jerod in the regular defense," coach Bill Belichick said yesterday. "And we had some other guys in there in sub-defense. We had some different packages in there; it wasn't a Ferris wheel of guys."

Guyton has been a Patriot going on four seasons now, and he's acclimated to the system and everything that Mayo does.

"Gary and Jerod came in together; they're very close personally and play next to each other," Belichick said. "They have great communication, and both guys can kind of do what the other one does. They flip assignments and positions regularly."

Second-year man Dane Fletcher, who went undrafted out of Montana State, has drawn high praise from Belichick in the past. And Fletcher wore Mayo's green dot on his helmet — signaling a radio link with the coaches in the huddle — during a preseason game.

"With whatever is going on [with] defense right now, everybody's got to help as much as possible, including myself," Fletcher said. "So whatever needs to be put on my shoulders, I will see as it's fit."

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Gary Guyton will likely start in Jerod Mayo's place Sunday.

'A lot of confidence'

Patriots coach Bill Belichick had high praise for LB Dane Fletcher yesterday.

- **Fletcher,** who joined the team as a converted defensive lineman, played in 13 games last year as a rookie. He totaled 23 tackles, including 17 solo.
- **"I think Dane** has taken a big jump from where he was last year," Belichick said. "This year, he came in and played inside linebacker right from the beginning of the year. He's way ahead of where he was last year. There's just really no comparison."

192

Gary Guyton is credited with 192 total tackles over his four-year career, all with the Patriots. The Georgia native has played all 16 games two years running.

On the air Sunday

Patriots vs. Jets
4:15 p.m., CBS, 98.5 FM

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Bruins ready for season after team trip to Maine

The Bruins get their Stanley Cup rings tonight at the Boston Harbor Hotel.

That's one rite of the new season they're certainly not used to.

This weekend, they wrapped up one they know quite well.

The B's went to Great Diamond Island, off Portlane, Maine, for their annual team-building trip. The excursion is a staple of Claude Julien's preseason repertoire.

The location was a tightly kept secret until a post-trip conference call with the media yesterday.

"We had an area where it was very quiet and secluded," Julien said. "We were able to do what we needed to do as a team. A lot of the stuff we did was based around the water. Our guys seemed to enjoy it, although we had plenty of water coming from the sky yesterday — but we also had water underneath us. It was challenging, it was a lot of fun and I think everyone enjoyed it."

The trips seem to make an impact. Yesterday, Andrew Ference praised the B's togetherness. "We have a very, very tight unit here," he said. "I feel that's one of the big advantages we have." METRO/AS

On the air Thursday

Bruins vs. Flyers
7 p.m., Versus, 98.5 FM

BRIAN BAHR/NHLI/GETTY IMAGES

▶ B's goalie Tim Thomas

Bryant, Bologna talking

Kobe Bryant might actually end up in the Italian league during the coming NBA lockout.

The Lakers star's reps and Virtus Bologna are reportedly "working very intensely" on a short contract.

The deal between Bryant and the Series A club would likely last 10 games, including five home games and five in large arenas. METRO

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